

Samantha F. Stokes

(734) 344-2289

sam.f.stokes@gmail.com

EDUCATION

M.S. Natural Resources & Environment August 2019 – April 2021

Focus in Environmental Justice

University of Michigan School for Environment & Sustainability

GPA: 4.0

B.S. Wildlife Management and Ecology August 2014 - May 2018

Minor in Environmental Studies

Michigan Technological University

GPA: 3.67, Cum Laude

EMPLOYMENT/SERVICE

Farm & Food Business Outreach Specialist

MSU Center for Regional Food Systems August 2023 - Present

Work across multiple programs within the Center for Regional Food systems to increase good food access by supporting outreach and providing equitable business and technical assistance efforts within low-income urban and rural communities. As part of the Farm and food Business Development team, lead collaborative efforts across Michigan provide comprehensive technical assistance to food and farm entrepreneurs, with a specific focus on providing support to Black, Indigenous and people of color working to provide good food for their communities.

Co-Manager & Performance Improvement Coordinator

Chubb E Acres Farm LLC July 2020 – Present

Work with owner/operator Melissa Holahan DVM, DACVECC to breed, manage, raise, exhibit, market and sell Nigerian Dwarfs that are both productive and successful in the American Dairy Goat Association show ring, positively representing the breed and dairy goat industry.

- Supervise clipping, fitting, and training for show
- Supervise showmanship, handling, and navigation of multi-ring shows
- Work with Dr. Holahan to make breeding, retention, and purchase decisions
- Work with Dr. Holahan to design and implement management techniques which maximize performance in the dairy parlor and show ring.
- Develop and lead marketing and consumer engagement efforts that result in the sale of animals/genetics across the county.

Veterinary Assistant & Herd Performance Coordinator

Caprine & Ewe Veterinary Consulting PC April 2021 – Present

Along with owner and head veterinarian Melissa Holahan DVM, DACVECC, founded a consulting service to help small ruminant farmers better maintain herd health, increase production value, and improve performance in show rings. In addition to assisting Dr. Holahan with a full range of veterinary services, I offer expertise pertaining to breeding, selecting, raising, feeding, fitting, marketing, and exhibiting animals that excel in the dairy parlor and ADGA show ring. As part of this role, I also lead business marketing, client engagement and continued client education efforts.

MIFarmLink Coordinator

Washtenaw County Conservation District January 2023 – August 2023
Spearhead the development, launch and management of the new Washtenaw MIFarmLink program designed to connect landowners and land seekers via the MIFarmLink website and facilitate successful land matches. Work closely with community members, farmers, preservation partners and Conservation District Technicians to assemble, facilitate, and support the local Advisory Committee, drive outreach, and assist farmers with technical assistance in posting and assessing land.

Student Facilitator

Decolonizing UM SEAS' Curriculum August 2020 – April 2021
Facilitated the first two semesters of an initiative from within the Academic Affairs & DEI Office to begin decolonizing various syllabi at the University of Michigan's School for Environment & Sustainability. Provided leadership and guidance for 24 graduate students helping 13 faculty members interrogate & de-centralize colonial narratives within their syllabi while incorporating the pedagogies & knowledge of BIPOC. Each semester culminated in feedback sessions/presentations/interviews where participating faculty and students reflected on what they learned, how the initiative could be improved and why it is critical to decolonize environmental curriculums.

Interim Livestock Coordinator

MSU Tollgate Farm & Education Center February – May 2019, July 2020 – August 2021

- Supervised everyday care of goats, sheep, cattle, horses, ducks, chickens, and rabbits
- Collaborated with veterinary experts to maintain livestock health, provide routine medical care, and keep the associated IACUC records.
- Oversaw obstetric and neonate care of ewes, does and their offspring
- Marketed, developed a customer base and oversaw the sale of Tollgate's livestock and animal products
- Designed and implemented nutrition, lactation and parasite management, hoof and routine veterinary care regimens for sheep and goats
- Taught, mentored, and supervised Tollgate Farm 4-H Club youth as they fitted and showed does for show at the Oakland County Fair and Michigan State Fair
- Contributed livestock expertise to the Tollgate educational staff as they designed and implemented agricultural education programs

4-H Special Interest Club Coordinator

AmeriCorps & MSU Extension October 2018 – October 2019

- Served on the 4-H STEAM Corps in Oakland County, Michigan at MSU Tollgate Farm
- Designed & delivered curriculum and contributed to programming focused on engaging both youth & adults in a variety of topics surrounding agriculture, natural resources, food science & ecology.
- Recruited volunteers to help work on the farm, contribute to youth programming and lead 4-H special interest clubs.

CERTIFICATIONS

FAMACHA Instructor Certification.....October 6, 2022
University of Maryland Extension Online

DHI Certified TesterJanuary 1, 2022 – 2025
Langston University Dairy Herd Improvement Program

FAMACHA Certification January 20, 2022
University of Maryland Extension Online

RESEARCH

Kawe Gidaa-naanaagadawendaamin Manoomin/Psin September 2021 – January 2023
Served as a PhD student researcher on the “First We Must Consider Wild Rice” collaborative: a group of Tribal, inter-tribal and University of Minnesota researchers and practitioners dedicated to understanding and promoting tribal sovereignty and cultural values in wild rice restoration, management, and policies. Disenrolled and left the research collaborative after deciding to pursue careers opportunities outside of academia.

Anishinaabe-Centered Mnomen Restoration November 2019 – May 2021
As primary investigator for this master’s practicum, worked to implement the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative* by building strong, reciprocal relationships with tribal communities which allows for a collaborative assessment of the ecological and social feasibility of Anishinaabe-centered Mnomen (wild rice) restoration on University of Michigan properties.

Tribal Dynamics of Wolf Management Fall 2017
As primary investigator prepared a senior capstone report that examined the tribal dynamics of wolf management in the 6 lower 48 states with sizable and longstanding gray wolf populations. Outlined the historical, cultural and political dynamics surrounding tribal involvement in wolf management. Presented recommendations for the implementation of wolf management, which is cooperative, scientifically sound, and cognizant of all stakeholders regardless of their socio-political status.

Assessing Mammalian Assemblages Along Senegal’s Largest Gold Mine May-June 2016
As primary investigator spent a month in Kharahena, Senegal using camera traps and recce walks to collect data on the effects of artisanal gold mining on mammal populations.

CONFERENCES & TRAININGS

Small Ruminant Field Necropsies.....October 6, 2022
Dr. Mary Smith Syracuse, NY

Goat Reproduction & Artificial Insemination Workshop.....October 5, 2022
Betsy Hodge, Fauna Smith DVM & Brandon Snyder Syracuse, NY

ADGA National Convention..... October 1-7, 2022
New York State Dairy Goat Breeders Association Syracuse, NY

Birth Management for Sheep & Goats.....January 4, 11, 17 & 25, 2022
Michigan State University Extension Online

Artificial Insemination Workshop..... November 11 & 12, 2021
Lee Ann Berlund-Fosdick, DVM, PhD Tucson, AZ

ADGA National Convention.....November 8 – 14, 2021
Southern Arizona Dairy Goat Association Tucson, AZ

Small Ruminant Ultrasounds for Pregnancy Checks January 27, 2020
Melissa Holahan, DVM, DACVECC Northville, MI

Practical Skills with Sheep & Goats August 19, 2019
Michael Metzger, MSU Extension Eaton County Fairgrounds, MI

GRANTS/AWARDS

2021-2022 Natural Resources Science & Management Fellowship March 1, 2021
Full departmental Support for the first year of Ph.D. studies at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities

UM Graham Sustainability Institute Catalyst Grant May 21, 2020

Primary student investigator and co-author

PIs: David Michener, Rebecca Hardin, Gregory Dowd, Benjamin Secunda, Scott Herron & Kyle Whyte

\$10,000 in support of the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative*

UM Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant May 11, 2020

\$1,500 in support of the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative*

UM SEAS Practicum Funding April, 2020

\$1,500 in support of the first phase of the *Mnomen Initiative*

Nanette R LaCrosse Student Prize March, 2020

\$1,000 Presented by the Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Summer 2016 – Spring 2017

\$4,000 Presented by Michigan Technological University

Michigan Tech Undergraduate Research Award March 29, 2016

\$150 Presented by Phi Sigma Biological Honor Society